

# Medieval Village Life

Brigstock, Stanion, and similar sites



# “Village” doesn’t mean “unsophisticated”

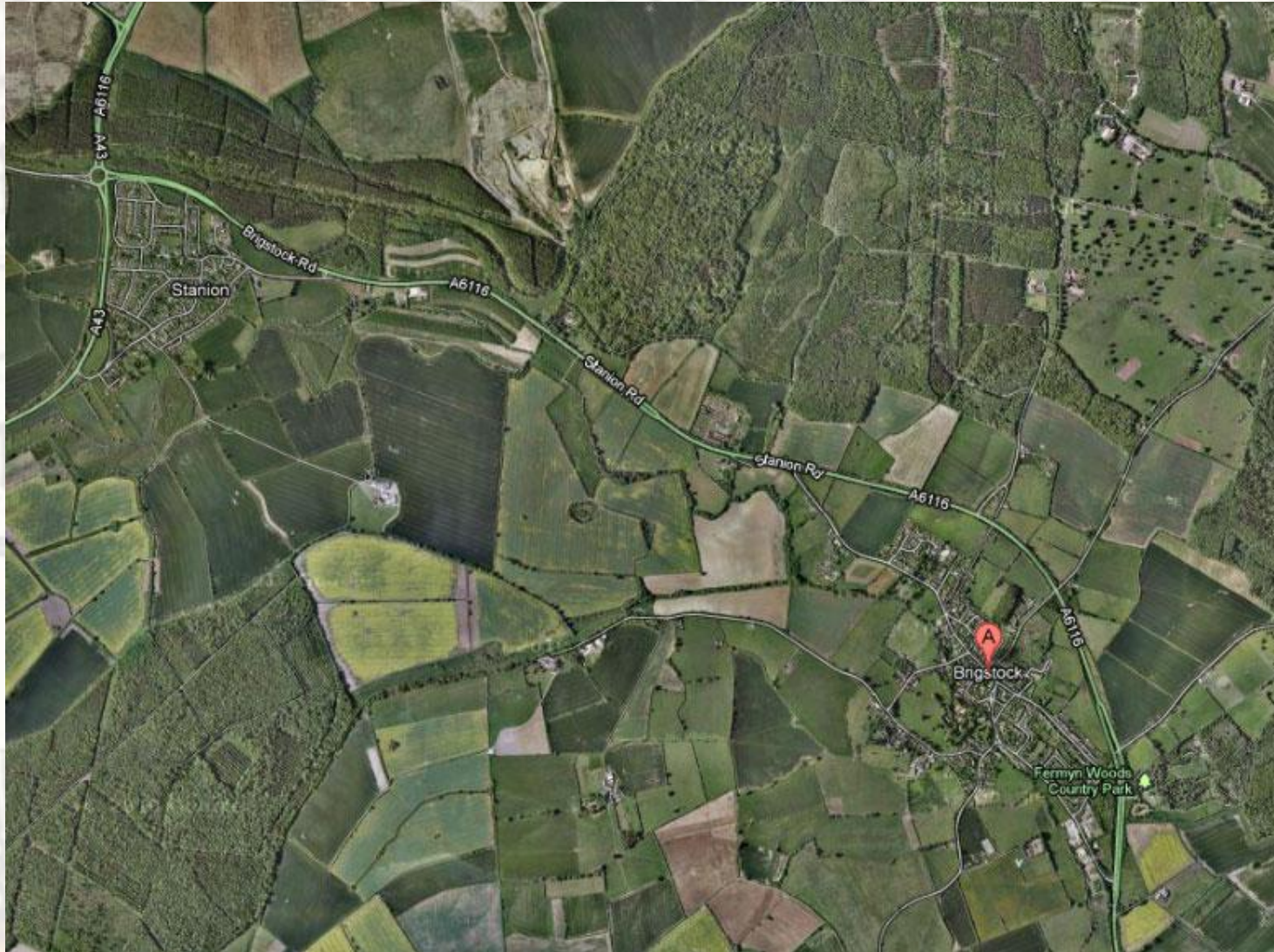
- Communities set up and enforced governing systems: see the [Ipswich custumal](#)
- Jealously protected their official rights



- Relied on courts and legal proceedings for clarity—court leets and frankpledges



# Aerial map of the Brigstock area



# St. Andrew's, Brigstock

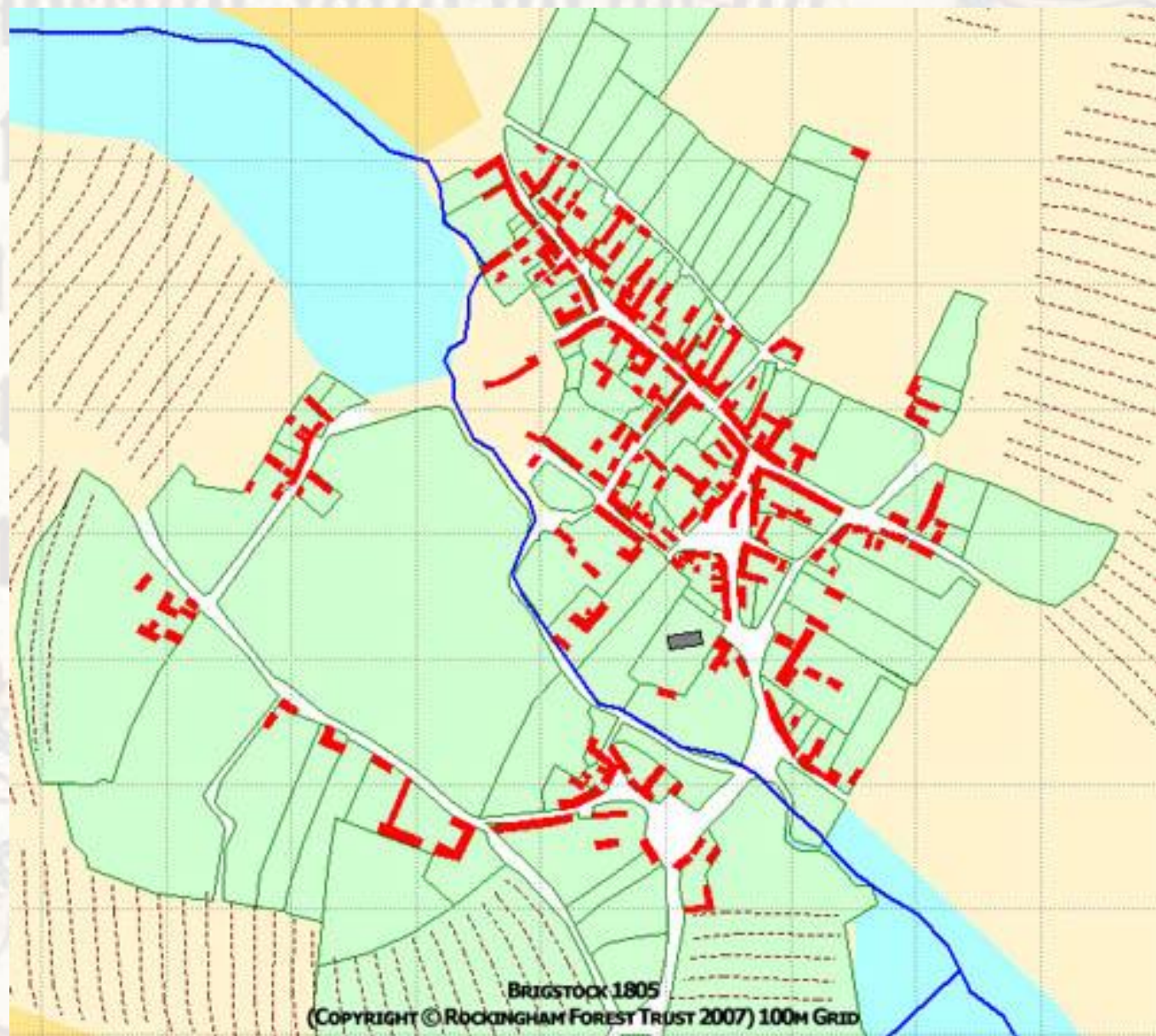
Parts of the church date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century; most is 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century, but that round turret is one of 4 remaining Anglo-Saxon stair towers in England, apparently. (Assume the steeple is a later addition.) Cecelia would have worshipped here.



# Green Man carvings in Brigstock church

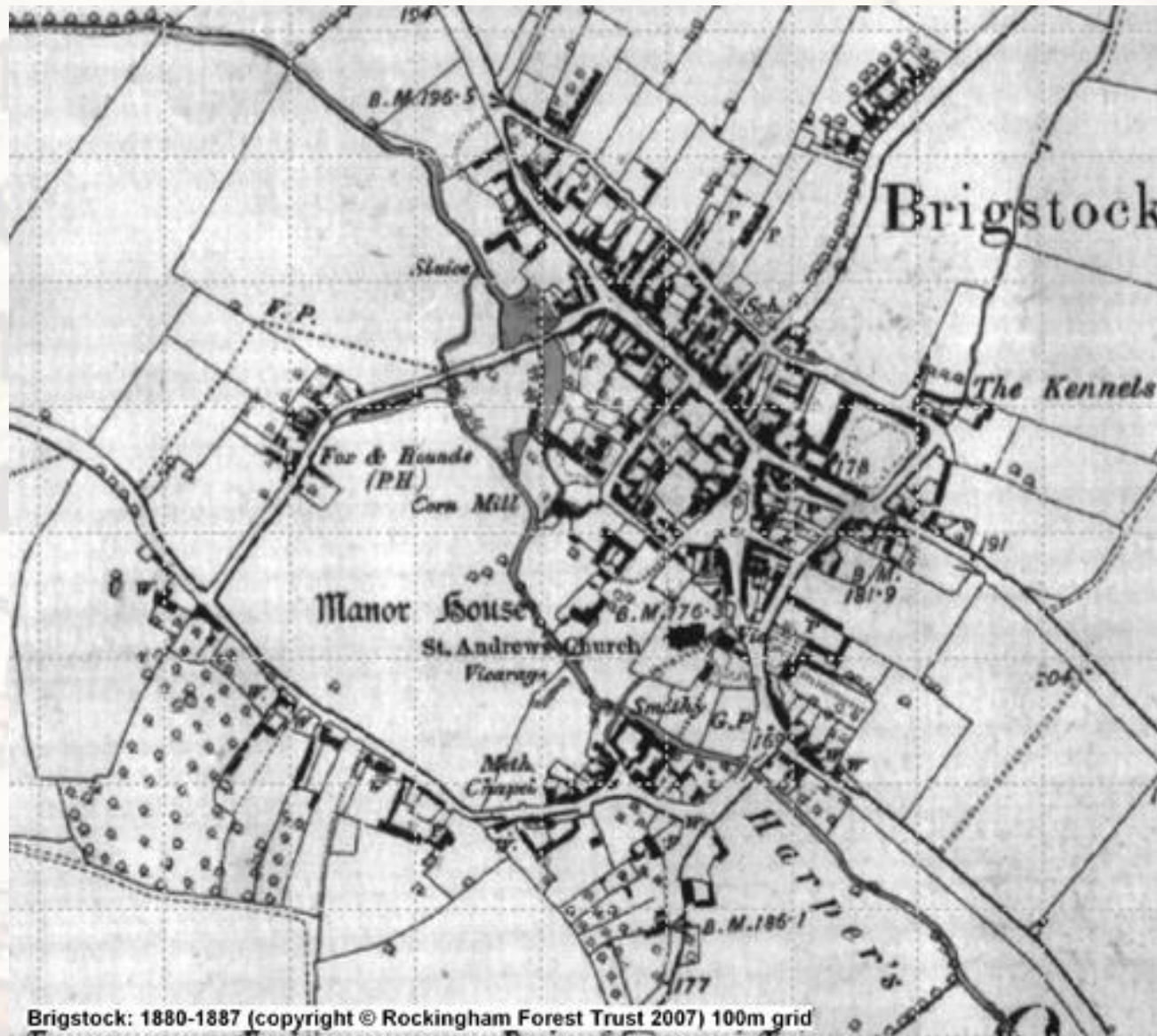


# Brigstock 1805



BRIGSTOCK 1805  
(COPYRIGHT © ROCKINGHAM FOREST TRUST 2007) 100M GRID

# Brigstock 1880-ish



Brigstock: 1880-1887 (copyright © Rockingham Forest Trust 2007) 100m grid



# Brigstock: Current Market Square



Brigstock is still an agricultural area.



www.andphoto.com

tur letificaverunt animum meam.



Evidence of charcoal-making (black patches)



# The “Manor” house today



# Eleanor Cross, at Geddington, c.

## 1294

Best preserved of these crosses,  
about 15 miles south of Stanion.  
This is the cross Bennett talks  
about on p. 28.



# Stanion village

copyright [www.northamptonshire.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.co.uk)





Stanion1805(copyright © Rockingham Forest Trust 2007) 100m grid

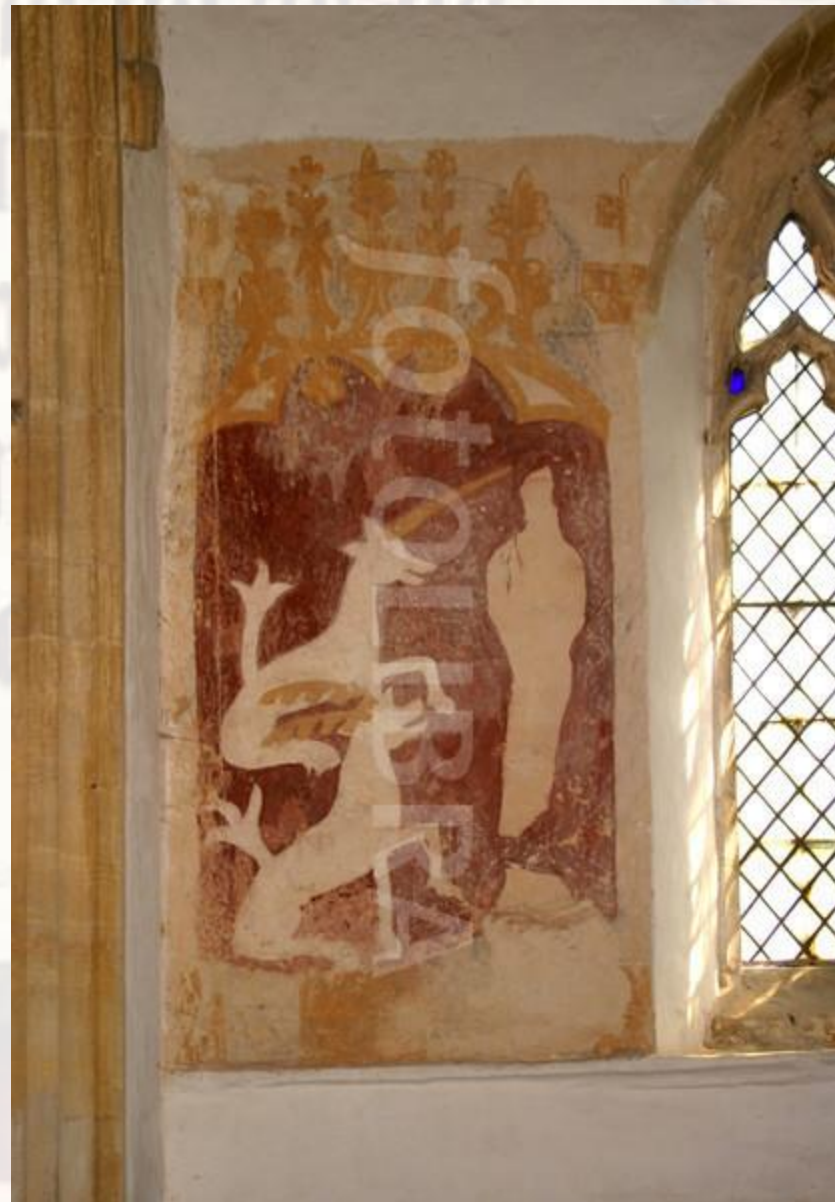


# St Peter's Stanion (13<sup>th</sup> c.)





Cecelia was probably baptised here.

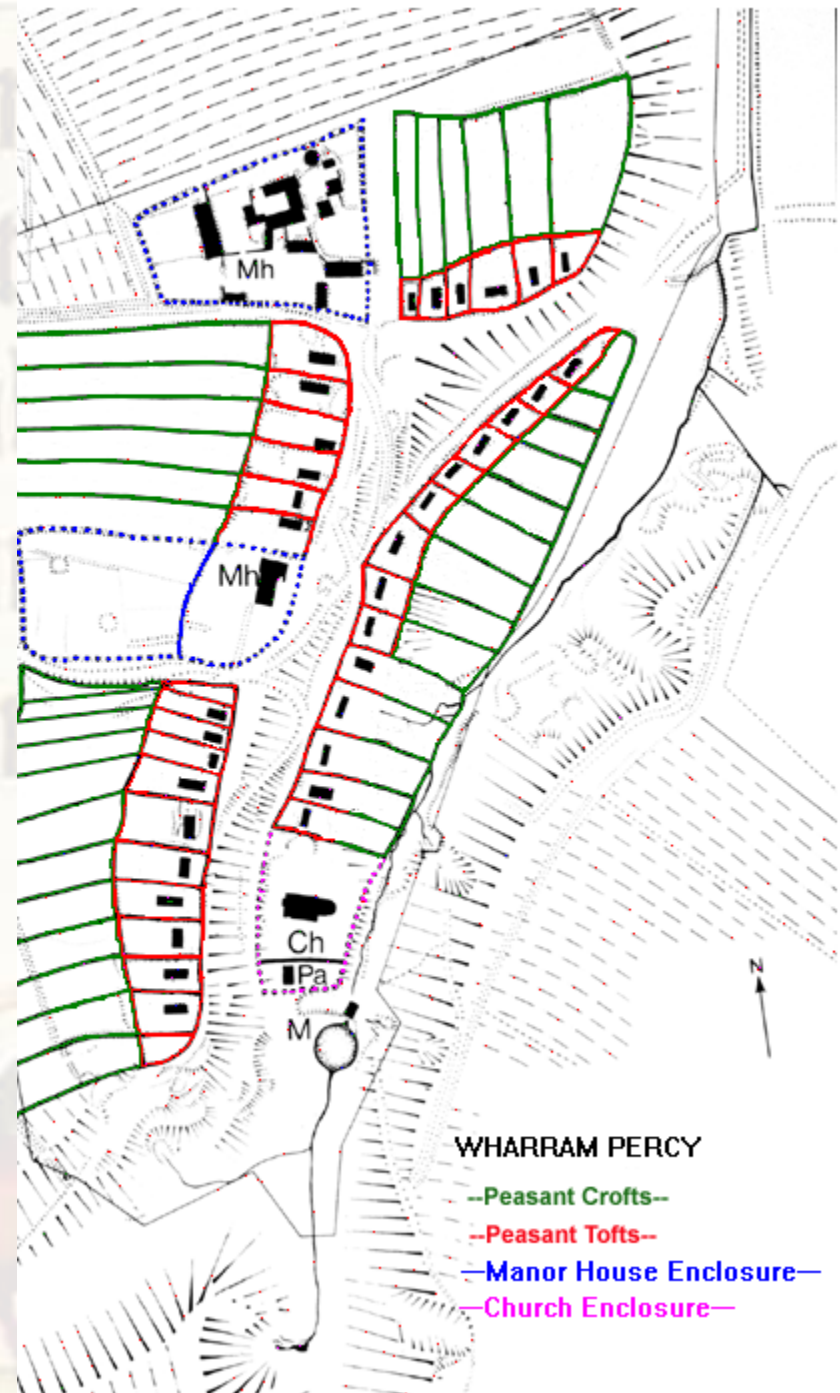


# Wharram Percy (DMV)



# Wharram Percy Village

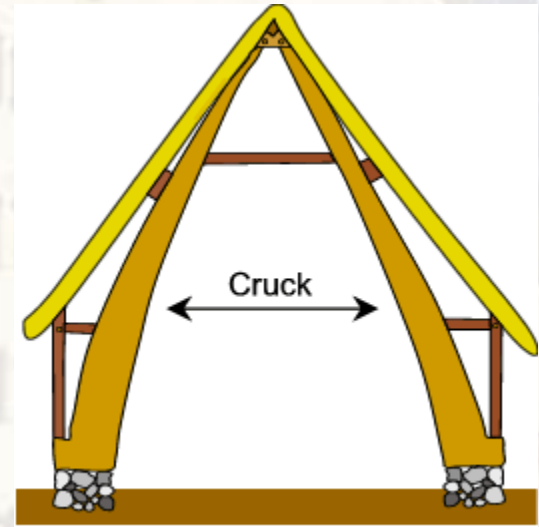
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/wharram-percy-deserted-medieval-village/history-and-research/>



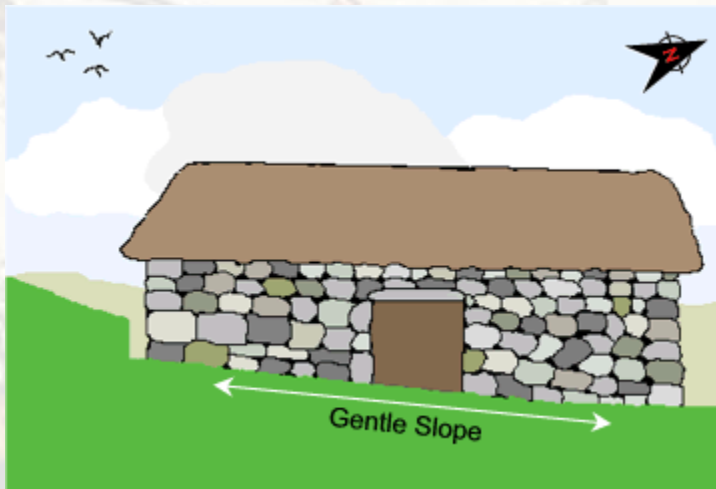
# Toft & Croft Outlines



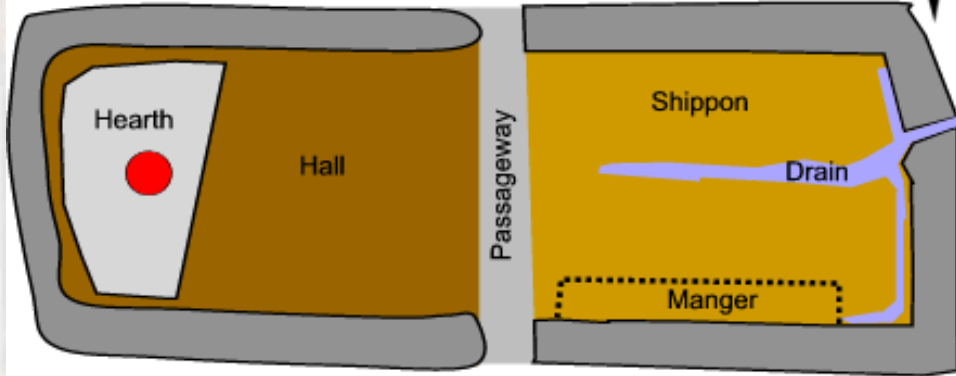
# “Longhouse” construction



Adapted from Stanes, 2005, p.18

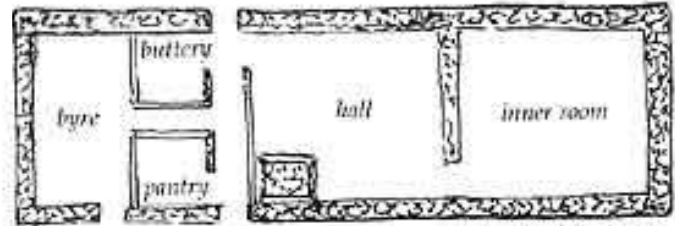


# Longhouse - Hountor Medieval Settlement



Longhouse 1

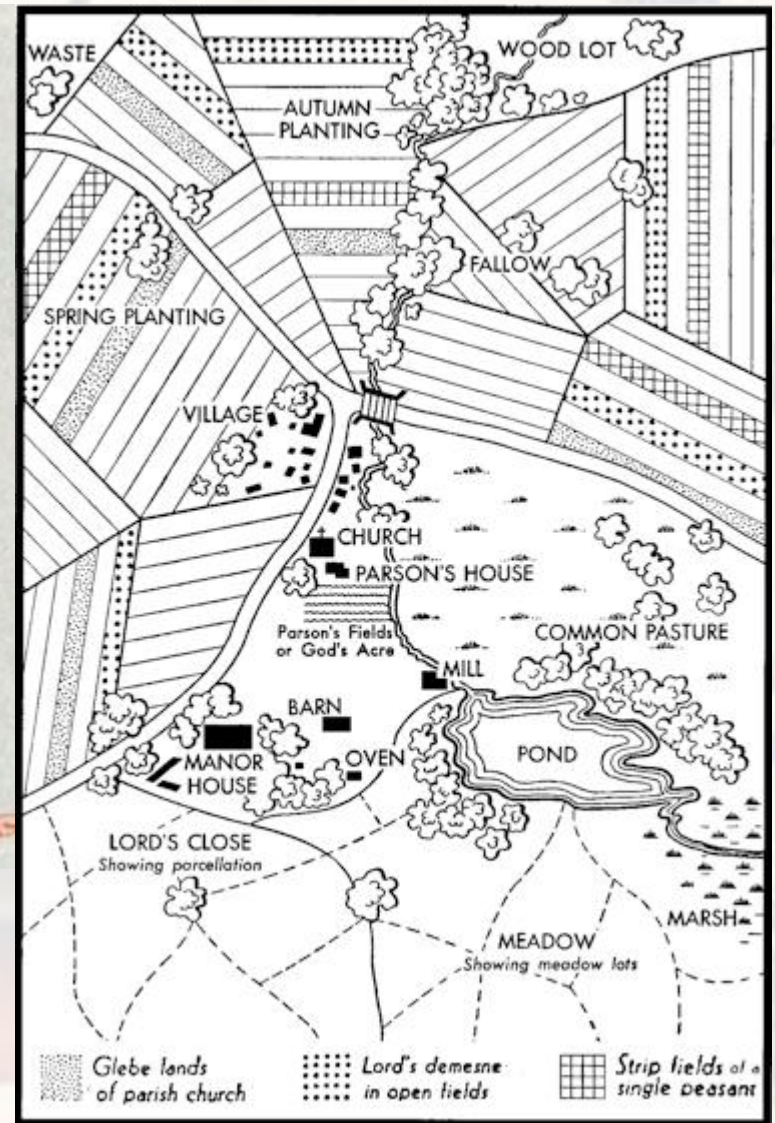
Beresford, 1979 p.130



plan of a longhouse



# Medieval village life revolved around the seasons...





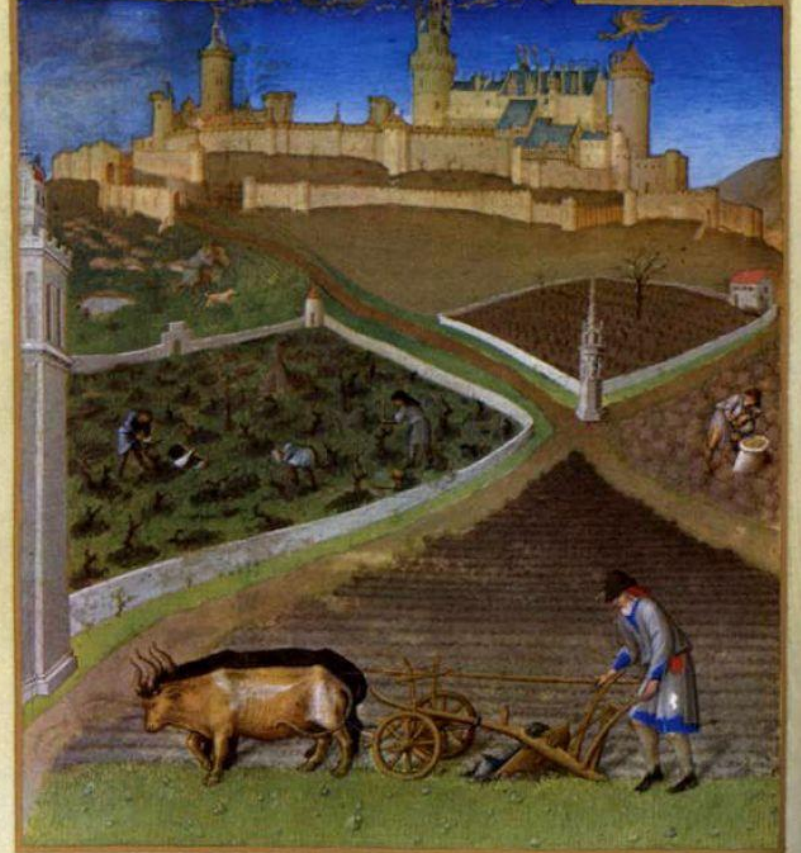
# The medieval year began with spring...

<b>April</b>	<b>spring sowing of seeds, harrowing</b>	<b>showers and sunshine</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>digging ditches, first ploughing of fallow fields</b>	<b>showers and sunshine</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>hay making, second ploughing of fallow field, sheep-shearing</b>	<b>dry weather</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>hay making, sheep-shearing, weeding of crops</b>	<b>dry early, showers later</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Harvesting</b>	<b>warm, dry weather</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>threshing, ploughing and pruning fruit trees</b>	<b>showers</b>

<b>October</b>	<b>Last ploughing of the year</b>	<b>dry, no severe frosts</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>collecting acorns for pigs</b>	<b>showers and sunshine</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Mending and making tools, killing animals</b>	<b>showers and sunshine</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>mending and making tools, repairing fences</b>	<b>showers</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>carting manure and marl</b>	<b>showers</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>ploughing and spreading manure</b>	<b>dry, no severe frosts</b>



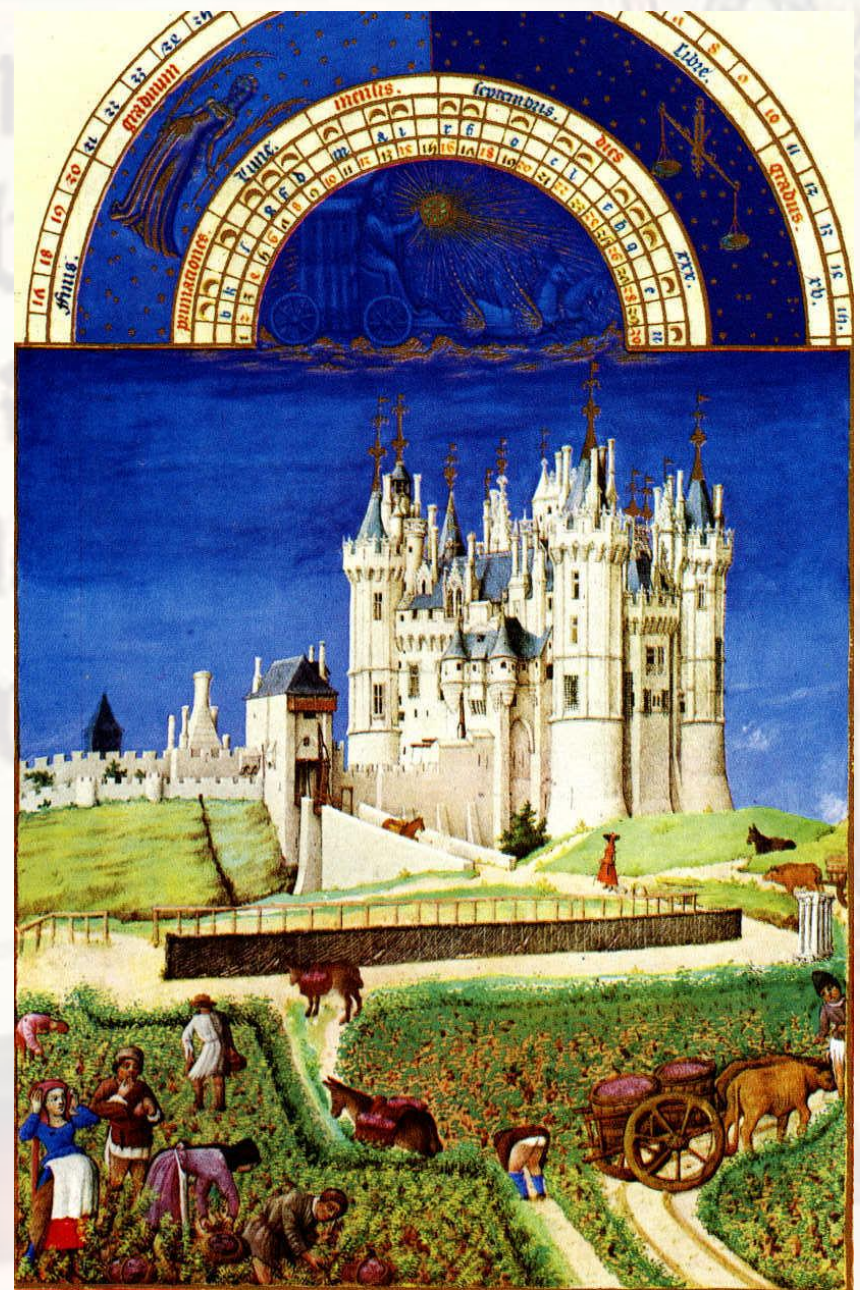
February



March



June



September

# Sheep & Wool

